

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Katsuki OHASHI et al.

Application No.: 09/870,702

Filed: June 1, 2001

For: METHOD FOR REPAIRING A
PHOTOMASK, METHOD FOR
INSPECTING A PHOTOMASK,
METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING
A PHOTOMASK, AND METHOD
FOR MANUFACTURING A
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

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)
)
) Group Art Unit: 1756

)
) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
)

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JUN - 5 2001
TC 1700

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents, including any copending patent applications, are attached. Copies were previously submitted in a prior Application No. 09/263,937, filing date March 8, 1999, now abandoned, upon which Applicants rely for the benefits provided in 35 U.S.C. § 120.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

The following is a concise statement of relevance of the non-English language documents.

1. Japanese Patent Publication No. 7-86647 discloses the speckle caused by laser interference is reduced by a vibration mirror. When a pulse laser beam is irradiated to plural lenses, the beam creates plural second light sources, which make the speckle on water. By using the vibrating mirror, the speckle is moved, thus optical intensity is averaged.

2. Japanese Patent Registration No. 2526986 discloses reduced laser interference by making a different optical path length. When a spectral band narrowed laser beam is irradiated on a wafer, the specks appear due to laser interference. By dividing the laser beam and creating an optical path difference between the laser beams, the interference is reduced, thus the speckle is reduced.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

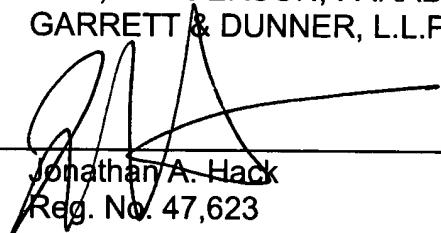
If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: August 31, 2001

By: _____


Jonathan A. Hack
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